



Photo: Lindsay McCullough, National Geographic Photo Camp



Photo: Nicolas Lemoine, France



Photo: Matt Moyer, National Geographic Photo Camp

# Ocean for Life: One World, One Ocean

## An Initiative to Increase Cultural Understanding through Ocean Science

The problems that face the ocean today cross national boundaries and require global solutions. Ocean for Life: An Initiative to Increase Cultural Understanding through Ocean Science is an integrated solution that brings together diverse high school students to better understand the global ocean, each other's cultures and societies, thereby building a strong foundation for tomorrow's global leaders. The program is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, The GLOBE Program and Scubabab International, in collaboration with National Geographic Society, American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

High school students from Western countries will participate alongside high school students selected from GLOBE schools within the Greater Middle East. Together, this diverse group of students will learn more about the unique qualities of national marine sanctuaries and the importance of the ocean to our planet. Within the context of this immersive two-week field experience at a U.S. national marine sanctuary, the Ocean for Life program will foster cross-cultural learning, appreciation, and relationships through exploration of how the ocean affects and connects us all.

The Ocean for Life field studies consist of collaborative ocean research expeditions, exploration, scholastic achievement, and an all-encompassing sense of wonder, while also allowing students from different countries to connect through common experiences and forge cross-cultural bonds. We anticipate that the program will help participants gain a meaningful understanding of our global relationships, provide perspectives that will remain for a lifetime, and be a formative experience for our future leaders. Fostering a better understanding of the environment, each other, and how we are all connected by one global ocean, is an excellent method to establish and strengthen our cross-cultural relationships.

### Eligibility Requirements

To apply, each student must:

- be in high school (ages 14-18);
- be able to swim;
- be proficient in the English language; and
- be willing to participate in future program aspects.

## **Participant Benefits**

Students will:

- participate in a 10-day immersive field study in one of America's national marine sanctuaries;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and how their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- build relationships with peers from different countries and cultures, and gain a better understanding of their similarities and differences;
- be immersed in classroom, lab, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world and their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain a better understanding of the scientific process and a deeper understanding of marine sciences; and
- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to document their field experience and develop "youth media projects" to share with schools and local communities.

## **Covered by the Ocean for Life Program**

All students will receive:

- round-trip travel expenses;
- dorm-style accommodations and meals during the field study;
- educational resources and materials from NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, The GLOBE Program, and National Geographic Society; and
- available support for continuing education and post-field study endeavors.

## **Requirements of Participation**

Students will be required to:

- attend all classroom, lab, and field sessions during the summer field study;
- participate in on-site and future assessments (e.g., surveys) of the Ocean for Life program;
- be mentors for future Ocean for Life participants;
- work with their teachers and schools to ensure participation in long-term program after summer field study is complete;
- conduct at least two presentations related to key aspects of Ocean for Life to any of the following audiences after the summer field study is complete: classmates/school, community, or conference in their home country;
- submit an article to local newspaper and/or television station about the program and their personal experience; and
- respond to requests for information (e.g., summaries of recent activities related to program) from Ocean for Life coordinators in a timely manner.

## **How to Apply**

Download a copy of the Ocean for Life Application Guidelines at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ofl/app>. If you have additional questions, please contact:

Claire Fackler, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Phone: (805) 963-3238 ext. 18

Fax: (805) 963-2438

Email: [claire.fackler@noaa.gov](mailto:claire.fackler@noaa.gov)

How did you learn about the Ocean for Life program and field study opportunity? *Please select all that apply.*

Teacher

Principle

Mentor

Parent

Email

Website

Friend/word-of-mouth

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION I — PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:            Male            Female

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions (e.g., vegan, vegetarian, kosher, halal, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Consideration(s) (e.g., asthma): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity:

*This question is optional, so please check the box "decline to respond" if you don't feel comfortable answering this question.*

Asian

African-American

Caucasian

Latino

Native American/Alaska Native

Pacific Islander

Other/Multi-racial

Decline to respond

Annual Household Income

*This question is optional, so please check the box "decline to respond" if you don't feel comfortable answering this question.*

< \$25,000/year

\$25,000 - \$75,000/year

\$75,000 - \$125,000/year

\$125,000 - \$175,000/year

> \$175,000/year

Decline to respond

## **SECTION II — SCHOOL INFORMATION**

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School Website: \_\_\_\_\_

School Category:                  Public                  Private                  Home School                  Magnet

For U.S. Schools: Is your school a Title 1 School?                  Yes                  No                  I am not sure

Grade Level in the 2010-2011 School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Age on July 15, 2011: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION III — ADULT REFERENCES

Download a copy of the **Adult Reference Guide** from <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ofl/app> and contact two (2) adult references that are not related to you. One of your adult references must be a current teacher of yours, and you are encouraged to have the second adult reference come from someone that leads an after-school activity or one of your extra-curricular activities.

Make sure you have emailed or provided a hard copy of the **Adult Reference Guide** to your two adult contacts and ensure they understand the goals and objectives of the Ocean for Life program and will submit the appropriate forms on your behalf by the required deadline.

These two (2) adult reference forms are required to consider your Ocean for Life online application complete and can be faxed to Claire Fackler at (805) 963-2438 or scan a copy into a PDF file and email to [Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov](mailto:Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov) **by March 7, 2011.**

Adult Reference #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Reference #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION IV — EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SKILLS INVENTORY

Make a list of no more than five activities (e.g., environmental clubs, debate, photography, yearbook, leadership, science, sports) you participate in outside of classes and provide a brief description of each in the space below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever traveled abroad to another country? If yes, what country or countries did you visit, when (month/year) and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Languages — Tell us your fluency in English (basic, intermediate or advanced). In addition, tell us what language(s) you speak in addition to English and level of fluency (basic, intermediate, or advanced).

### Camping/Outdoor Skills/Certifications

The Ocean for Life field study includes many physical activities, such as hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, swimming, and more. You are not required to have previous experience, but please help us by checking off the areas from this list that you have had experience or are certified in.

Hiking

Backpacking

Ecology/Nature Studies

Videography

Photography

Creative Writing/Journaling

Swimming

Boating

Kayaking

First Aid

CPR

Lifeguard/Water Safety

Snorkeling

SCUBA Diving

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

None

If you are selected for the Ocean for Life program and July 2011 field study, please let us know what your preference is in terms of participating in the National Geographic Society's Photo Camp or National Geographic Society's Video Camp. **[Important note: Though your preference will be considered, we are unable to guarantee you will be assigned to your preferred media camp.]**

Photo Camp

Video Camp

No Preference

## SECTION V — SHORT ESSAYS

The goals and objectives of the Ocean for Life program are:

1. To bring together multi-national students in an immersive, hands-on program that allow them to explore, study, and gain new perspectives about unique ocean environments while gaining an appreciation about each other's diverse cultures.
2. To provide intercultural background materials and training for all staff and participants.
3. To provide one-of-a-kind, ocean-based field experiences for multinational students to explore their connections to the environment and each other.
4. To raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, the current issues facing those resources, the research being done to address those issues, and the role of marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
5. To instill in participants the desire to share ocean literacy in their communities as a means to communicate our shared heritage and dependence on the ocean.
6. To develop still photography and video "youth media projects" that students can share broadly with classmates, schools, local communities, and other audiences through various outreach networks.
7. To foster a long-term collaborative education program including the classrooms and schools of all Western and Greater Middle Eastern participants.

Students will:

- be immersed in collaborative classroom, laboratory, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world, their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain an enhanced awareness and understanding of the conservation and stewardship of our ocean and coasts through introduction to the National Marine Sanctuary System;
- build relationships with peers and gain a better understanding of different countries and cultures;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and understand that their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- become advocates of ocean conservation and cross-cultural appreciation within their communities through outreach;
- be introduced to ocean science and related careers to inspire them to learn more about these types of



career opportunities;

- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to photo document their field experience and develop “youth media projects.”

To achieve these objectives, a variety of classroom, field and laboratory-based activities and educational lectures will be conducted and supervised by the Ocean for Life program partners, including staff from the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and partner facilities. Throughout the program, participants will be provided with opportunities to observe and describe features of the unique marine environment while developing a sense of place and interconnectedness. As a result, participants become better equipped to make informed decisions about their role in stewardship of the world’s natural and cultural resources. Upon their return to their local communities or home countries, participants are expected to share their experience and the importance of preserving the vast range of marine life, habitats, historical artifacts, and ecosystems. They are also expected to communicate with each other about best practices to promote ocean conservation and cultural understanding. Through their unified voices, the public’s awareness of marine ecosystems and issues of conservation will increase.

With these goals and objectives in mind, please respond to all five of the following questions. Please do not exceed 500 words for each question. These essay questions are being provided in advance of the launch of the online application system. There will be no way to save your online application, so when you submit your application you must complete it in its entirety. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you start a new Word document for these essays now, so when you apply online you can simply cut and paste your completed essay questions into the online application.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Ocean for Life program? How do you think this program will benefit your personal growth and/or aid you in reaching your future goals? What part of the Ocean for Life program do you think will interest you most and why? What aspects do you think will be the most challenging part of the program for you and why?
2. Have you ever met someone from another country or culture? If so, how were you able to find common ground or similar interests with that person? If not, briefly describe how you would seek to find common ground upon meeting someone from another country or culture for the first time. Do you feel your understanding of that person’s country or culture was improved by meeting that person? If so, briefly describe your experience.
3. The Ocean for Life program does not end with the field study; you are expected to share what you learned. Describe how you will raise public understanding at your school and in your local community about the new cultures you will learn about during the field study?
4. The Ocean for Life program is also about putting into action what you have learned. How will you raise awareness about the ocean and its resources, as well as encourage your peers and local communities to take action in ocean stewardship activities, such as beach clean-ups, watershed restoration and recycling?

5. Describe a time you have been moved or affected by a photo or film related to the environment or another culture. How did the representation connect you to the subject matter? Did you share that feeling with someone else, and if so, how?

## SECTION VI — SIGNATURES

Download a copy of **SECTION VI — SIGNATURES** at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ofl/app> and print a copy to share with your parent(s)/guardian(s) for their review and signature. Note that you are required to sign this form as well.

This form is required to consider your Ocean for Life online application complete. Please have your parent/guardian fax this form to Claire Fackler at (805) 963-2438 or scan a copy into a PDF file and email to [Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov](mailto:Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov) **by March 7, 2011.**

## OCEAN FOR LIFE ONLINE APPLICATION

Now that you have all of the information required for the Ocean for Life student application, you are ready to begin. Just a reminder that there will be no way to save your online application and return to it, so you must be prepared to submit your complete application before you start the online application process.

Once you have submitted your online application, you will receive an automated email letting you know that your submission has been received. You are only allowed to apply once, so make sure all of your information is accurate before you submit your final application.

**All elements of the Ocean for Life student application are due by March 7, 2011.**

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Claire Fackler, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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